

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
October 20, 2022 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS: Meagan L. Alderton
Willie F. Bailey Sr.
Kelly Carmichael Booz
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
Jacinta Greene
Christopher Harris
Tammy Ignacio
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt., Susan Neilson, Emily Milton, Torenzo Ricks, Zahra Rahimi, Margaret Browne, John Finnigan

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting.

Moment of Silence

2. Observe a Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

3. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the October 20, 2022 School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the October 20, 2022 School Board Meeting.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for October 20, 2022 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. “Simply the Best” School Spotlight: Charles Barrett Elementary School

Student Ambassadors from Charles Barrett Elementary School showed a “signing of the contract” exercise which is a CETA (Changing Education through the Arts) strategy to help students focus and cooperate. The students also highlighted PBIS activities, and the Student Ambassador program.

5. Strategic Plan Video Vignette

The School Board unveiled the second of a series of Strategic Plan video vignettes. ACPS will be sharing monthly videos that provide staff, families, students and community members an inside glimpse of how the School Board works with the division to bring the mission, vision and goals

of the ACPS 2025: Equity for All Strategic Plan to life. Board Member Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi narrated the video about the processes of the annual Capital Improvement Program and Combined Funds budgets.

6. Public Comments

Deborah McKeeman, community member, thanked the Board for approving the speed limit reduction around schools, and spoke about comments made by Board Members at the last Board Meeting.

Dr. Jenica Patterson, ACPS parent and Samuel Tucker PTA President, spoke about the need for smaller class sizes at both Patrick Henry and Samuel Tucker Elementary Schools.

Mr. Stephenson Walsh, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding and questioned what is being done to reduce the number of students in classes.

Ms. Rebecca McCauley Rench, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding at Samuel Tucker and noted concerns of safety, instruction and student services.

The Board also received the following written comments:

Mr. Rhett Christenson, ACPS parent, wrote on the benefits of smaller class sizes and the need for instructional support in overcrowded classrooms.

Ms. Patricia Jason, ACPS parent, wrote in to express her concerns about overcrowded classrooms at Patrick Henry.

Ms. Jill Bailey, ACPS parent, wrote about providing classroom aides for each elementary school classroom and inquired if there is money in the budget allocated for this.

Ms. Shawna Alvarez, ACPS staff member, wrote about increasing pay for paraprofessionals.

7. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Milton highlighted the Student Representative's participation in the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony held on Saturday, October 8, 2022. She mentioned the dedication of Virginia State Delegate Elizabeth Bennett Parker who substituted for a government teacher at Alexandria City High School (ACHS) and encouraged others to do the same. Ms. Milton also reported on the first Superintendent Student Advisory Council. She also thanked student leadership members for their hard work on Homecoming events, and noted that Homecoming tickets are on sale. Ms. Milton highlighted two ACPS partners, Best Buddies and Move to Learn. She noted the virtual community meeting on GWMS Athletic Field Improvements on October 27, 2022.

Mr. Ricks reported that it was National School Bus Safety Week and thanked our transportation personnel for all their hard work. He highlighted the ACHS Titan Orchestra which performed at the Community in Schools National Leadership Conference where they played for First Lady Jill Biden. Mr. Ricks also noted the upcoming Fall Concert which features musical performances from several ACPS Schools. He also noted the end of Quarter 1 for students and encouraged students to work hard to finish the quarter strong. Lastly, Mr. Ricks reminded the public that on Monday schools will be closed in celebration of Diwali.

8. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi shared highlights from the Francis C. Hammond Middle School International Academy (IA). She noted that students were working on its Hispanic Heritage Assembly to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, a new soccer club with the Alexandria Soccer Association, and a new Rocket Club. At the ACHS IA, there are plans for partnering with SROs and Communities in Schools for a soccer tournament which they hope to expand to other sports in the winter. Lastly, Ms. Rahimi reported on a new College Competencies for the 21st Century class in which students will be learning about college resources, scholarship programs and the financial aid process.

Consent Calendar

- 9. FY 2023 Monthly Financial Report ending August 31, 2022**
- 10. Design Contract—1703 N Beauregard Street**
- 11. Appointments to the School Board Policy Review Subcommittee**
- 12. Re-Appoint Cindy Hart to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
- 13. Minutes for the October 6, 2022 School Board Meeting, the October 11 and October 13, 2022 Special Called School Board Meeting, the October 11, 2022 School Board Retreat, the October 12, 2022 Joint City Council/School Board Facilities Planning Session, and the October 18, 2022 Joint City Council/School Board CIP Budget Work Session**

Dr. Rief moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

14. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A)(2) for the discussion of matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning students. She further moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the term or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board. Lastly, Vice Chair Greene moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(19) for the discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to public safety; discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 4 or 14 of Virginia Code § 2.2-3705.2 where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any facility, building, structure; or discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any building or structure, or the safety of persons using such facility, building or structure.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

15. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, that the Board certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, and which are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on October 20, 2022.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Mr. Elnoubi was not present during vote.

The Board returned to an open meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Old Business & Action Items

There were no Old Business & Action Items

New Business and Reports to the Board

11. HR Recruitment Update

Ms. Margaret Browne, Director of Recruitment & Retention, presented an update to the Board on recruitment of staff for the 2022-2023 School year, challenges and successes encountered, current staff vacancies, and preparations for the 2023-2024 recruitment season. Ms. Browne also reviewed recruitment areas of focus and changes to their recruitment process which will result in an increased number of quality applicants.

12. FY22 Q4 and FY23 Q1 CIP Quarterly Report

Mr. John Finnigan, Director of Educational Facilities reviewed the FY2022 Q4 and FY2023 Q1 Quarterly Report which contains a summary of the Capital Improvement Program work that progressed during the fourth quarter of FY2022 (April – June 2022) and the first quarter of FY2023 (July - September 2022). The highest percentage of the work noted was in the implementation phase (23 projects) due to summer construction and HVAC. Mr. Finnigan also reviewed funds remaining through the end of FY23 and progress that is anticipated for the FY23 2nd quarter.

Dr. Rief moved to accept the FY22 Q4 and FY23 Q1 CIP Quarterly Report.

Vice Chair Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the FY22 Q4 and FY23 Q1 CIP Quarterly Report was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

13. CIP Reserve Quarterly Report for FY23 Q1

Mr. Finnigan reviewed the CIP Reserve Account balance with the Board which remains at \$235,759.77.

Chair's Report

16. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton did not give a report.

Superintendent's Report

17. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Interim Superintendent Kay-Wyatt remarked on the pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama to visit the Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum, October 6-10, 2022. Dr. Kay-Wyatt, along with Board Members Kelly Carmichael Booz, Vice Chair Jacinta Greene, as well as 165 community members, staff and students participated in social justice activities and visited to Montgomery and Selma civil rights sites.

Dr. Kay-Wyatt also reported on the recent Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony of 24 athletes and two teams on October 8, 2022. She noted that the group reflected the diversity within ACPS as well as the high standards of citizenship and character of the inductees. She also reported that two of the recent inductees, Noah and Josephus Lyles, were further honored by the City of Alexandria where they were presented a key to the City.

Dr. Kay-Wyatt spoke about National Crime Prevention Month which is celebrated in October, as well as Safe Schools Week, and National Bullying Prevention Month. She invited the public to attend the ACPS/PTAC sponsored School Public Safety Forum on October 26th to be held in the

GWMS Auditorium. Dr. Kay-Wyatt announced the Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest which is held to promote a drug-free lifestyle. This year's theme is "Celebrate Life! Live Drug Free!" Three winners will be chosen from the submissions. She also announced the upcoming deadline for the Washington Post's Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year awards. Nominations are due on October 24th.

Lastly, Dr. Kay-Wyatt addressed changes and adjustments that would be coming to alleviate overcrowding issues at some schools.

Board Member Announcements

18. Announcements

Mr. Harris reported on visiting Samuel Tucker and visiting some of the classrooms of parent concern along with Dr. Kay-Wyatt, principals and the Senior Leadership Team. He was confident that solutions will be forthcoming to address parent concerns.

Mr. Elnoubi also visited and toured Patrick Henry regarding parent concerns about class sizes, along with the Superintendent and the Leadership Team. He complimented Dr. Kay-Wyatt and staff on their efforts.

Adjournment


19. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Elnoubi and seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 9:47 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the November 10, 2022 School Board Meeting.